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MONTANA'S HIGHWAYS

Published bi-monthly for the employees of  
the Montana Department of Highways, state-  
wide

PUBLISHED SINCE JANUARY, 1938

*December-January, 1971-1972*

*Happy  
New  
Year!*

Perhaps it is not fair for us to keep talking about the "high country" when the fact is that we in Montana have so many types of country to talk about. Our astute advertising unit puts it this way: camping and rockhounding country, rodeo and mining country, fishing and hunting country; art, Indian, history, National Park and wilderness country—action or resting country. And then we have our beloved "high country;" almost all such country easily reachable by means of the modern automobile and good Montana roads.

Perhaps, too, since the Holiday Season seems synonymous with travel, we naturally start dreaming of the mountains, the cold bite of the rarefied air, the grotesquerie of winter's sculptures. In any event, one cannot go far in any direction in our Big Sky country without being rewarded by scenes that inject awe and inspiration into our lives—and that, too, is an inherent part of the Holiday Season and contains virtually all the ingredients of our Seasons' Wishes to you and those you hold most dear.

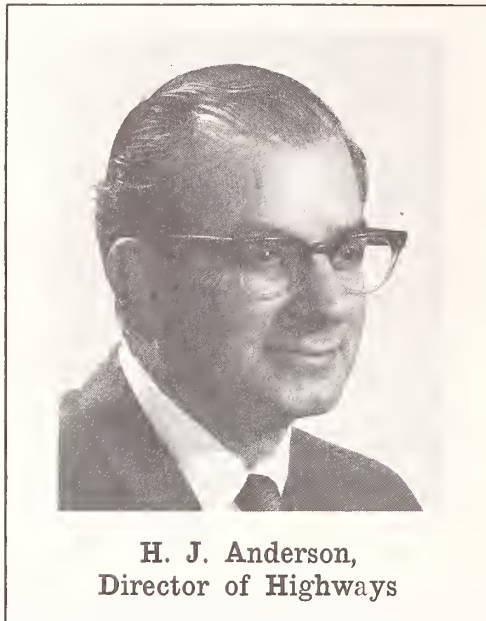




# Department of Highways Activated December 16

On Thursday, December 16th, Governor Forrest H. Anderson announced the activation of the Department of Highways for Montana, the twelfth of the nineteen departments to be activated under the Executive Reorganization Act of 1971. At the same time the Governor announced the appointment of H. J. Anderson, Helena, as Director of Highways.

Members of the Highway Commission will continue to serve for four-year terms under reorganization. The Commission also will continue to act as the Highway Patrol Board until the activation of the Department of Law Enforcement and Public Safety. At that time the Highway Patrol will



**H. J. Anderson,  
Director of Highways**

## CENTER LINE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

**FORREST H. ANDERSON**  
GOVERNOR

**GEORGE VUCANOVICH**  
CHAIRMAN  
Helena

**H. S. HANSON**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Billings

**G. R. COONEY**  
Butte

**WILLIAM M. KESSNER**  
Black Eagle

**R. E. COFFEY**  
Wolf Point

**JOHN D. WHEELER**  
SECRETARY  
Helena

**H. J. ANDERSON**  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS

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### Division Correspondents

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Billings .....    | James Young     |
| Bozeman .....     | Barbara McGuire |
| Butte .....       | Judy Combo      |
| Glendive .....    | Carole Curtiss  |
| Great Falls ..... | Ciel Tinelli    |
| Havre .....       | Edna Hess       |
| Helena .....      | Bev Gibson      |
| Kalispell .....   | Bob Finley      |
| Lewistown .....   | Bea Knerr       |
| Miles City .....  | Jean Sweeney    |
| Missoula .....    | Clara Neely     |
| Wolf Point .....  | Ollie Hauge     |

News items of interest to Highway Department employees are invited. They should be given to the correspondents listed above.

be transferred to the control of the Attorney General. The Governor said George Vucanovich, Helena, will continue as Chairman of the Highway Commission.

The principal change in the Highway Department is in the method of selection of the director: he is appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation. All organizational units of the Department thus are placed under the control of the director.

### Director has wide professional background

H. J. Anderson has spent more than thirty years as an administrative and financial executive of various heavy construction firms. He retired in 1966 to devote time to consultation work and to several personal business activities.

Anderson was born and educated in Butte. Following the completion of his education at the Butte Business College in 1939, he worked briefly for C and F Contracting Company. Anderson entered the United States Army in 1942 and was discharged in 1946. He served as office manager of Birch-McLaughlin-C and F Construction firms on a joint venture from 1946 to 1948; then he was an accountant and acted as partsman, foreman, superintendent, purchasing agent and estimator for F. and S Contracting Company from 1948 through 1951; from 1951 through 1952, he was employed as business manager for the firms of Birch-McLaughlin-Union-F and S Construction

Companies on a joint venture. He then became an officer, director, and assistant general manager of the F and S Contracting Company, an affiliate of the Morrison-Knudsen Company, from 1952 through 1964. He was employed for one year as manager of the Zook Brothers Construction Company prior to his retirement in 1966.

Anderson has served as a director of the Montana Contractor's Association and also was chairman and chief negotiator of the association's labor committee. He has also served as a trustee of the Laborers, Teamsters and Operating Engineers Union health and welfare trusts.

Anderson and his wife, Natalie, have one daughter, Karen Sue.

### Managers and administrators named

Among his earliest official announcements, Anderson released the roster of division administrators and unit managers who would report directly to him and be responsible to him. These were as follows: Scott Warden, manager of the Advertising Unit; Kermit Anderson, manager of the Information Unit; L. B. Clift, manager of the Internal Review Unit; N. A. Rotering, administrator of the Legal Division; Roy Broughton, administrator of the Personnel Division; Howard T. Buswell, administrator of the Centralized Services Division; Jack R. Beckert, acting administrator of the Engineering Division; Don B. DeVore, administrator of the Motor Pool Division; William Mortieau, administrator of the Gross Vehicle Weight Division; and Don D. Gruel, administrator of the Maintenance Division.

Beckert will also continue his duties as chief of preconstruction. Homer Wheeler, construction bureau chief, will report to the Director of Highways in the areas of administration and construction management, and will report directly to Beckert in the area concerning engineering matters. Lehman Fox, materials bureau chief, will report to Homer Wheeler.

### Pats on the back!

"Pleased and delighted to find facilities heated and clean for travelers during the winter months.

"Thank you, Montana—Mrs. Jim Blair, Spokane."



## Receives Award



**HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MAN OF THE YEAR**—Elmer "Red" Bianchi, White Sulphur Springs, left, was presented the first Highway Maintenance Man of the Year award in December by the Montana Highway Users Federation. Making the presentation is Al Erickson, retired executive director of the Montana Automobile Association (AAA). Last winter, Red Bianchi, a sectionman for the Montana Highway Commission for over 35 years, pulled a tourist out of a snow bank during a severe snow storm and probably saved the tourist and his wife's lives. L. E. Wood of Great Lakes, Illinois, wrote that he and his family could have been marooned for hours when their car skidded off U. S. 12 in desolate country east of White Sulphur Springs. The Montana Highway Users Federation is an organization of Montana citizens and groups interested in the development and preservation of good, functional highways in the state. The award will be presented annually to a maintenance "man in overalls" who has performed an outstanding deed, something over and above his normal line of duties, such as protecting the traveling public or making the highway safer.

### Golf Tournament

The golf committee has announced that the annual state highway golf tournament will be held in Billings next summer at the Lake Hills Country Club. The committee urges golfers to make plans to attend. The club has an 18-hole course, and other facilities will be open to players, such as the swimming pool, banquet room and bar.

★ ★ ★

Asked how she liked her new boss, a young secretary remarked, "Oh, he isn't so bad, only he's kind of bigoted." "How do you mean?" "Well," explained the girl, "he thinks words can only be spelled one way."

### Car roofs to be strengthened

The Department of Transportation has issued a new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that requires passenger cars to have stronger roofs. The new standard should considerably reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries in rollover accidents when the roof collapses into the passenger compartment.

Specifically, the roof crush standard will provide protection in rollover accidents by improving the integrity of the door, side window and windshield retention areas. It preserves the overall structure of the vehicle in a crash, and decreases the likelihood of occupant ejection.

*The following letter was written to summer information desk hostess Nancy Harper, and is typical of tourists' reactions to visits in Montana and especially the visitors desk.*

Dear Miss Harper:

Just a short note on the back of your letter of inquiry. The information that was sent to us on Montana was extremely helpful and made our trip to "Big Sky Country" a memorable one. We have been traveling all over this grand country of ours for the past 30 years, and now we are trying to really do some traveling in those states that we felt we should see more of, and this year it was Montana.

How can anyone describe Montana to people who have never been there and seen it for themselves? The term "Big Sky Country" is so inadequate. We are people who love the sight of the mountains, and we also like to get the feel of the land, so to speak, by getting off the main highways and on the small roads and by-ways.

We enjoyed Butte and Anaconda (the copper mines were on strike), and especially liked Helena, your capital. We toured the capitol building and also your wonderful museum in Helena. The plug-in speakers and the marvelous exhibits make it a living museum such as few are. We visited several "ghost towns"—Marysville and Granite, also Virginia City and Nevada City. We bought our fishing licenses in Laurel, and fished all over your state for a week. Neat! Your state parks are great for camping, (we had a tent this trip), and your little city parks are just wonderful.

I suppose by now that you must know that we really enjoyed our trip to Montana and that the information you people sent was a very big help in making our trip so successful. Thank you once again—we will be back.

Yours,  
M/M Albert H. Bowen,  
Reading, Pa.

### Red Face Department

Our faithful readers have pointed out the error of our ways. The photograph on the cover of the October Centerline was definitely of Pipestone Pass, east of Butte, and not Cardwell-Three Forks. We've protested that we were just testing your knowledge, but have been told — firmly — that we just can't move roads about, willy-nilly. Our apologies.

—Staff, Centerline



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Kalispell

—Bob Finley—

With the coming of the soft northern breezes bringing forth the white stuff so yearned for by the avid snow-catters, things around the Northwest outpost have been busier than a pup in an ant hill. Ten new men have joined the troops and they are scattered from Eureka to Summit. Richard Morgan at the former and Donald McLeod at the latter. Scattered in between are Robert Nau, Nyack; Kenneth Goings, Rexford; Larry Young, Olney, and Danny Butts, Kalispell. In the transit and picket clan, Ron Holden and Phillip Stevens have joined Tom Barnard's crew at Kalispell and Richard Gorder and Jim Ruegsegger have been assigned to Jerry Roat at Thompson Falls.

Arnie Mohl has brought his crew in from Libby to division headquarters and in the move Gary Jones was promoted to Instrumentman and assigned to Tom Barnard. Gus Strobbe assumed his new duties as resident engineer at the Libby Dam. Gene Flint is leaving his white collar job and bid Maintenanceman I in Kalispell. Mary Ellen Connelly was promoted to Clerk II and filled the office vacancy. The sonorous voice of Pat is again drifting across the airwaves . . . welcome back!

The falling leaves and frosty mornings have also stirred some of the braves of the tribe into oiling up the muskets and sharpening the bowie knives and some have already fattened the cache of winter's meat. Loren Dollan and Roger Michels are chewing on antelope shanks, Al Lang is wiping the deer tallow off his chin, Elden Gamache has two fat "mulies" hanging up, Arnie Mohl, Norm Nelson and Bill Sands are getting ready to dine on elk steak, Bob Finley has both elk and antelope to winter on plus a brace of Canadian honkers. Howard Kyriss (like many more that won't 'fess up) is slavering a bit after a couple of misses. A new batch of neophytes were turned out in the Hunter Safety Course conducted by our own Willard Stockwell and Bob Finley . . . Howard Stockwell even slipped into the act the last night during the exams.

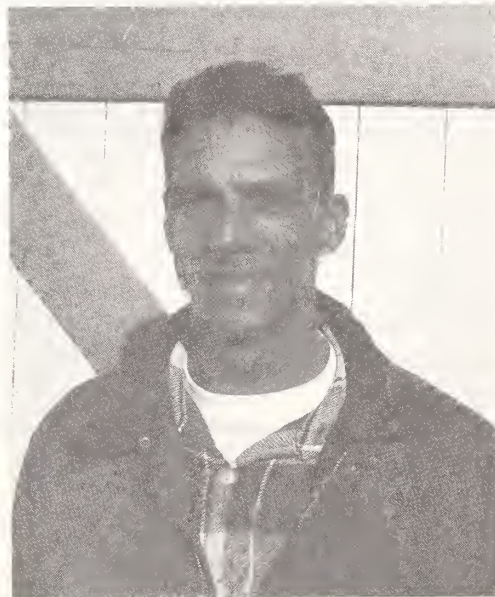
Our Highway Patrol was busier

than a one-armed paper-hanger with the itch during the recent visit of the Nixons from the banks of the Potomac. Al Rierson, Don Reksten, Dana Kraut, Jim Jenson and Ben Wagner are all simmering down from the episode. They did a commendable job of handling the traffic that jammed the roads to the airport.

Marie Klemme visited the area and explained some of the workings of the PERS and she ably handled all the questions. Might pass along a suggestion to other divisions to contact her for a visit. You will be greatly enlightened and find that PERS is operating in a businesslike manner that is building up our reserves in the group.

Kalispell is in the process of installing a new relay station for the Libby area on Blue Mountain. This area has been spotty for a number of years. Gene Pfeiffer and Bob Gwaltney have been over several times to help Al Seelye, and we all hope to be back to normal soon.

While chatting with the men who claim hunting and fishing as hobbies, ran into a real jewel. Dave Tousey, Columbia Falls section, is listed under the fans of hunting but found he has another love which is noteworthy. He is one of those characters who get their thrills by putting all their trust into the lowly silk worm. He is a sky



Dave Tousey

diver and has attended three or four meets where other members of the clan gather to float down (hopefully) with the tiny shrouds and a hank of silk the only thing keeping them from

making quite an impression on mother earth. He has been at the thriller for 14 months and has 220 jumps to his credit, plus a few trophies. His longest freefall is two and one half miles, which is a considerable amount of ozone to plummet through. Dave owns his own plane and just returned from a jaunt to California where he joined in a couple of jumps. He has been flying for three years and joined the highway department about the same time. Prior to joining us he was employed in the construction arts. Dave is the father of three children . . . Ben who is 6, Anna topping 4 and Brian, 2. His wife, Sharon is quite calm about the sky diving. For me, I'll stay glued to terra firma.

Among those with more common hobbies we find Jack Adamson who has been with MHC for a period of two decades. Jack is also a member of those who list hunting as his hobby and he sprinkles in a bit of bowling to spice the off season when hunting



Jack Adamson

is either forbidden or non-existent. He received his three R's while living in the outskirts of Charlo. While still in the vicinity of Charlo he drifted into Ronan one day and met, wooed and wed his wife, Glenda. They have the school system covered in its entirety with Don attending the University at Missoula, Ron a senior, Terry a freshman at the Troy High School, Sandy in junior high and the youngest, Lisa, in the fourth grade. Lisa tried the sky diving bit last year when she jumped from a second story window . . . her delving into the sky diving is the extent of the Adamson clan's try at the hobby. Fortunately, she escaped with a few bruises and much wiser.

This is the news from Kalispell for the nonce.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Miles City

Jean Sweeney

Steve D. Stephenson, instrumentman was transferred to the Forsyth office from the Miles City office recently, where he is working with Ray Garland's crew.

Sympathy is extended to Dean Seiler, division maintenance supervisor, and family in the recent death of their granddaughter, Julia V., five-day-old daughter of Vicky and Doug Bishop, SP-5 in Fulda, Germany, where Doug was stationed with the U. S. Army. The baby's body was flown home with her parents and brother, Brian and interment was in the Custer County cemetery.

David L. Cook, rodman with Claude Taylor's crew with headquarters in Broadus was rushed to a Miles City hospital and underwent emergency surgery. After a lengthy hospital stay and some time convalescing at home, he returned to work, after an absence of about six weeks.

Claude Taylor, resident engineer 2 with headquarters in Broadus, is confined in the Veteran's hospital at Miles City and he may have to undergo surgery.

Guy Hough, retired maintenance foreman and his wife are now in their winter home at Apache Junction, Arizona. Guy always stops at the office to bid us farewell until spring, when he leaves.

Milo Lahn, former district engineer at Lewistown and now retired, was a visitor in the Miles City office recently. The Lahns have a mobile home in Arizona, where they had just returned from getting it all set up and ready for occupancy. The Lahns plan to spend Christmas with their daughter and family in Butte.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Kolka are the parents of a new baby boy, who will answer to the name of Kirk Dean. He was born November 19 in a Miles City hospital and joins an older brother. Dick is an engineering aide 2 with Del Borer's crew and headquartered at Miles City.

Bryce Young and wife are on their way to East Africa with their son, Dr. Bryce Young and wife of La Grande, Oregon to embark on a camera safari. The elder Youngs flew to Oregon to join their son and family and from

there they are all flying to Africa. The trip is a Christmas gift to Bryce and his wife from their son and family. Bryce, now retired, was a mechanic in the division shop. Sounds like a whole lot of fun!

Janis M. Seiler, daughter of division maintenance supervisor Dean Seiler and wife Connie, was married October 16 to Frank J. Hartman, Jr. at the Sacred Heart Church in Miles City. A reception and wedding dance were held in the VFW Hall following the ceremony. Following a wedding trip to Cody, Wyoming and western Montana, the newlyweds are at home at 2405 Leighton Boulevard in Miles City.

Pat Rodgers, engineering aide 1, working with resident engineer Del Borer's crew and headquartered at Miles City was married October 9 to Cheryl Leigh Zabrocki at the Sacred Heart Church in Miles City in an evening ceremony. A reception was held for the couple in the basement of the Presbyterian church following the wedding.

We are mighty proud of our division winning top honors for best maintained road in maintenance. Hope no one cares if we brag a little. Congratulations to Pat Webster, sectionman at Broadus, Robert Ray Lamb, maintenance foreman, Dean Seiler, division maintenance supervisor and Clarence Mackey, P. E., district engineer.

The Miles City division had their Christmas party December 18 at the Eagles Hall with over 100 attending. The social hour preceded the steak dinner followed by dancing 'til the wee hours. Some lovely door prizes were given and everyone had a wonderful time, thanks to the very fine efforts of a committee headed by Dean E. Seiler, division maintenance supervisor. Other committee members were Don Stewart, instrumentman with Del Borer's crew, and Don Niedege, maintenanceman 2. This was the eighth annual affair and each year the party gets a little larger, so you know it is always a lot of fun.

## Bozeman

Barbara McGuire

in Livingston. A delicious dinner was served to 85 guests after which there was speechmaking and dancing 'till the wee hours. The group from maintenance in White Sulphur Springs joined us and a good time was had by all.

The second annual judging of each maintenance section site was held this summer and the judges were Dennis Williams and Barbara McGuire of the Bozeman office, and Arnold Swanson, former Highway Commissioner. The awards were presented in October to: Louis E. Maaek—Most Improved Section Site; George L. Lemon—Best Maintained Section Site; John J. Gorman—Best Maintained Section.

Barbara McGuire and Pat Letendre traveled to Helena for the office managers meeting on September 30th.

Cliff Farrington, California transplant, shot his first elk recently and wouldn't you know, it was a dandy with many horns.

Martin Kolence and Grace Gonder of Livingston are in the process of tying the knot. We wish them lots of happiness. Instead of having a bachelor party, Martin went out and shot a great big mountain sheep, which is quite a feat.

Service pins were presented to Abe Fuller for 15 years; Harold Heath, 15 years; and Al Bruner, 10 years.

Don Betcher was the hero of the day recently when he found the loot stolen from the Friendly Tavern at Belgrade.

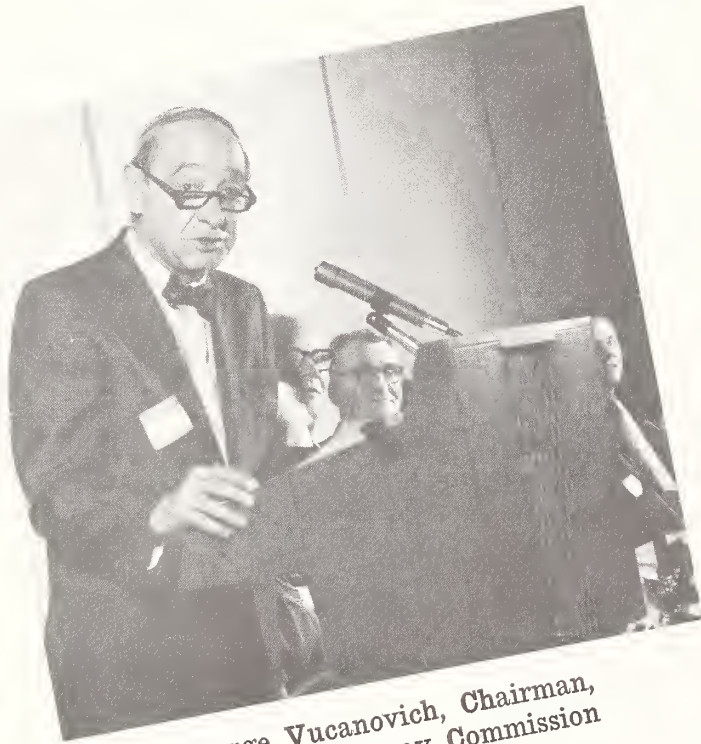
Mr. and Mrs. John Wisner became parents of a 6½ lb. boy born November 18th. Congratulations to them on their fourth child.

Claren Pearson had quite a scare recently when his son and a friend were lost while hunting. It seems their vehicle broke down and they spent the night in a deserted cabin and meanwhile search parties were out looking for them. They walked out the next day, none the worse for wear.

Did anyone see the Army-Navy football game on November 27th? Well, for the benefit of the very few who may not have heard it already, number 76 was none other than Jay Kimmitt of West Point and he is none other than the cousin and Godson of Pat Letendre of this office. If you need any further details, please contact Pat.



# Road Awards Winners Announce



**George Vucanovich, Chairman,  
Montana Highway Commission**



**First Place  
new construction-Interstate  
Billings Division**

Traveling trophies for winning roads were won by Billings and Glendive districts at the fifth annual road awards banquet Tuesday, December 14th at the Colonial Inn in Helena. Billings district won both the new construction-interstate and best-maintained older roads categories, with Glendive taking honors for best new construction-ABC roads.

Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer, presented the traveling trophies to Clarence R. Mackay, who accepted for the Billings district, and to Bruce Russell, for Glendive.

George Vucanovich, chairman of the Montana State Highway Commission, was master of ceremonies, and presented the individual trophies to engineering and maintenance personnel connected with the winning roads.

John C. Cadby, executive vice president of the Montana Automobile Dealers Association, was guest speaker.

The winning road in the new construction-interstate category was a 14.152 mile section of Interstate 90, Columbus-Park City. Receiving individual awards were Charles W. Klimper, division construction engineer, Billings; Michael Zahn, resident engineer (grading), Billings; Robert E. Ewing, resident engineer (grading and sur-

facing), Billings; Kenneth G. Bowersox, resident engineer (structures), Columbus, and Mackey. The contractor, Schultz and Lindsay Construction Company of Billings, received a trophy from State Highway Engineer Chittim.

Second place in the same category was won by Missoula division for a 7.605 mile section of Interstate 90, Bearmouth-West. Receiving individual awards were Ben C. Miller, district engineer, Missoula; Sam F. Thompson, division construction engineer, (retired), Missoula; Cecil Owen, resident engineer, Missoula; Walter Liles, resident engineer (bridge), Missoula. Washington Construction Company, Missoula, was the contractor.

Third place honors were captured by Butte division for a 17.408 mile section of Interstate 90, Three Forks-Cardwell. Trophies were awarded to Richard B. Dundas, district engineer, Butte; John C. Cashell, division construction engineer, Butte; Ray Masters, resident engineer, Three Forks; Frank Caprara, Jr., resident engineer, Twin Bridges; and Harold Wiebe, resident engineer (bridge), Dille. Zook Brothers Construction Company, Great Falls, were the contractors.

The winning road in the new construction-ABC roads category was a



**First Place  
new construction-Interstate  
Schultz & Lindsay, contractor**



# At Annual Recognition Banquet



**First Place**  
new construction-ABC roads  
Wolf Point Division



**First Place**  
best maintained older roads  
Miles City Division

7.485 mile section of Montana 16, Culbertson-Plentywood. Receiving awards were G. E. "Dutch" Flemming, division construction engineer, Wolf Point; James E. Baldwin, resident engineer, Culbertson, and Russell Chittim presented the winning contractor trophy to Northern Improvement Company, Fargo, N. D.

Second place was won by Kalispell division for a 7.198 mile section of U. S. 93, Ronan-North. Awards were presented to Ben C. Miller, district engineer, Missoula; James J. Keithley, division construction engineer, Kalispell; Lorren Claridge, resident engineer, Kalispell; and Gerald Roat, resident engineer, Kalispell. Goodfellow Brothers, Wenatchee, Wash., were the contractors.

Third place honors went to Lewistown division for a 6.058 mile section of U. S. 191, Big Timber-Harlowton. Trophies went to Clarence R. Mackey, district engineer, Billings; Vern D. Borden, division construction engineer, Lewistown; and Elton Strunk, resident engineer, Lewistown. Wickins Brothers, Suffolk, were the contractors.

The winning road in the maintenance category was a 16.5 mile section of U. S. 312 and U. S. 212, 15 miles north of Broadus to one mile south

of Broadus, entered by the Miles City division. Individual awards went to Dean E. Seiler, division maintenance supervisor, Miles City; Robert Lamb, maintenance foreman, Miles City; Patrick E. Webster, sectionman, Broadus, and Mackey.

Second place honors went to Great Falls division's entry, a 7.8 mile section of U. S. 89, Bynum northerly to the junction of U. S. 89 and Secondary 219, known as the Pendroy Wye. Trophies were presented to James T. Sullivan, district engineer, Great Falls; Raymond Wiley, division maintenance supervisor, Great Falls; Milton Ingersoll, maintenance foreman, Great Falls, and Stanley Brown, sectionman, Choteau.

Third place awards were presented to personnel from the Lewistown division for their entry, 8.427 miles of U. S. 12, Shawmut-West. Taking home trophies were A. E. Harcharik, division maintenance supervisor, Lewistown; Madison K. Miner, maintenance foreman, Lewistown; Paul Aicher, sectionman, Harlowton, and Mackey, district engineer.

Introduced at the banquet were the road judges: Mrs. Lyle (Junne) Johnsrud, Fort Benton; James Taylor, Missoula; William Riggert, Missoula; and William Wenzel, Great Falls.



**Lewis M. Chittim**  
delivers comments on awards.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Great Falls

Ciel Tinelli

Helge (Swede) Erickson, Augusta sectionman, retired November 30th, and the usual cake and coffee was served in the office. We presented him with a model of his highway truck (31-17) which was piled full of new silver dollars, a token of our appreciation of the years he spent with us being a good and well-liked co-worker.



Swede Erickson

Our Christmas party was held at the Vet's Club December 11, with a cocktail hour, a chicken, turkey or beef dinner and dancing to Don Moe and his Rhythmaires. We had a good crowd and saw many of our retired employees there.

Karlene Knapp, the daughter of Jerry Knapp, is back home from the hospital after being seriously hurt in a car-pedestrian accident in early November. She was struck while walking in a cross-walk on her way to school. Christmas should be a happy time for the Knapp family this year.

Bob Ritter, engineering aide 2, is back at work after spending several weeks in the hospital following a car accident, and Gerald Holm, sectionman at Lincoln is back at work after surgery at St. Peter's hospital in Helena.

Our sympathies are extended to Charlie Saksa who lost his mother in death, and to Charlie Hawn and Rick Fransen, whose fathers also died, and to Ken Trovatten whose brother was fatally stricken after broadcasting a football game.

Norman Lesofski joined our shop mechanic force in early October. He recently retired from the Air Corps

and was briefly employed by GVW section on the Ulm-Great Falls scale. He and his wife, Marianna have five children.

From the Great Falls Tribune: "Appearing on the streets of Neihart is the Model T Ford belonging to A. J. (Bus) Buskirk, employee of the Montana Highway Department. He's had it stowed away in his garage for quite awhile working to get it in running order. Originally a touring car, the back had been taken off to make a pickup truck but Bus plans to restore it to its original form. The last time it was licensed was 1936 but it'll be back in circulation again soon. Bus said the exterior needs lots of fixing. He is having no trouble getting parts or tires to fit. He also has a Model A to work on when he finds the time. It's one of his hobbies."

## Missoula

Clara Neely

Lois C. Baker, local right-of-way agent, has been elected and installed as president of the Big Sky Chapter, number 45, of the American Right-of-Way Association. Congratulations to you, Lois. A precedent has been set inasmuch as you are the only woman who has been selected, either on a national or international basis, for this office. (Believe me, we sincerely appreciate your part in the women's lib movement.)

The highway department has lost a loyal maintenance employee in the retirement of Rudolph Anderson from the Evaro section. The following is quoted from a note which he sent us: "I wish to thank you and all of the flower fund members for the card and generous gift. Also, a thank you to the person who delivered it to my door. I'm sorry I was not at home so we could have had a cup of coffee together. The Montana Highway Department was good to me and I don't have a gripe in the world. Still, retirement is nice and I'm enjoying it. Thank you again."

Maxine Weggenman from right of way and Cliff Dishman have both received pins, Maxine for having completed 10 years of service and Cliff for 15 years.

Our five-man engineering crew, under the supervision of Bruce Bar-

rett, has returned from the Bozeman division, where they were assisting on a location. Indications are that, if it became necessary at some future time to assign them elsewhere, Bozeman would be their first choice.

The annual Christmas party, sponsored by Local 1199, was held at the Eagle's Club in Missoula on December 11th. The evening featured a cocktail hour, dinner, dancing and drawings. More than a hundred reservations were made. It was nice to see all of you there.

## Glendive

Carole Curtiss

Was just informed that I had today to prepare my news for Centerline, so there will not be much, as I just returned from my honeymoon this morning. December 4 was the big day for us at the United Methodist Church in Glendive, with a reception and dance at the Montana Inn, so I am now Mrs. Jim Curtiss. Jim is in the trucking business with his father, Arlin Curtiss Trucking out of Montevideo, Minn. So transportation for our honeymoon was none other than a semi, but we had a ball and was much more fun.

Our annual highway Christmas party was December 17 at the Moose, with 135 registered by December 10. After all the fun we had last year with 125, we looked forward to this year with at least 10 extra partygoers.

Ross Major transferred from Ken Quale's crew to the Glendive right of way department, which leaves them with no idle moments. What an asset, right?—right of way employees?

Dennis Tenney's crew is back from Bozeman. Betcha that town is sorta dead now, but your loss is again our gain!

Sympathies were extended the Joe Undem family with the passing of Joe's father, Olaus, age 98, who was quite ill for the past two months with a stroke. Joe is our shop foreman.

Here is a quotable quote from the one and only Mel Kegley: "If you think it's bad on the outside—youotta be on the inside."

Diplomat: A man who can convince his wife a woman looks stout in a fur coat.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Lewistown

Bea Knerr

A group of 22 employees attended a no-host luncheon at the Yogo Inn in honor of eight employees with a total of 135 years of service with the State Highway Commission. Included are these fellows: Elmer (Red) Bianchi, 35 years, maintenance; Carl W. Park, 25 years, construction; Paul V. Mayo, 20 years, maintenance; Ross M. (Bud) Johnson, 15 years, construction; Paul E. Aicher, 15 years, maintenance; Lewis E. Harrell, 10 years, construction; Arnold Blair, 10 years, maintenance; and Hoyt G. DuBois, 5 years, maintenance. Individual service award pins were presented to each by A. E. Harcharik, division maintenance supervisor and Vernon D. Borden, division construction engineer. Congratulations to all.



Harcharik, Bianchi

Mr. and Mrs. William Higgins spent 33 days traveling over most of Germany, visiting Mrs. Ursula Higgins' sister and relatives. Traveling by jet they report is the only way to travel. "How glad we are to live in the 'good old U.S.A.'" was the remark they made upon their return. Bill is maintenance supervisor in the Mobridge area.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lengemann spent three weeks in London, England visiting their son, Bob and his family. They also report that a jet is the only way to travel. Among the highlights of their vacation was a two-day boat trip (son Bob's boat) up the Thames River to Hurley. They stayed in Hurley overnight in an Inn that was built in 1135, and has been in continuous use since. They saw

Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and many others. One week was spent motor-ing in a rented car to Stonehenge, visiting the old temple; to Southampton, where all the big ocean ships dock; up the beautiful coast to Dover, with the most beautiful being at Whiting, then back to London. They saw Windsor Castle where Queen Elizabeth makes her home. Their daughter and her husband, Sgt. and Mrs. Rieo D'Amico, met them at Boston and took them to Loring Air Force Base in Maine for a visit and rest, before starting home.

Our own Shirley Barriek, wife of Larry Barriek, a combination man in the Lewistown shop, was chosen just recently as the most outstanding young woman of Central Montana. She is very definitely an asset to her community, as she takes an active part in every organization she belongs to, including: secretary, St. Leo's Parish Council; secretary, Fergus County Home Makers Council; treasurer, AAUW; member, St. Treia's Unit, Divide Extension Home Makers Club, International Reading Association, and Silver Mountain Ski Club. Shirley graduated from the College of Great Falls with a B. S. degree in elementary education and did some post graduate work at Eastern Montana College in Billings. She is a native girl raised on a ranch just east of Lewistown. Larry and Shirley have two small sons, Michael, four, and Kevin, two. Shirley even finds time for hobbies, as she likes to cook, sew, camp and ski. Congratulations, Shirley, and keep up the good work.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Kosbab are the proud parents of a baby girl born on September 20. She joins two brothers. Don is maintenanceman at Rye-gate.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Nesson were delighted with a baby girl on November 8 who joined two brothers, also. Gary is a roddman on Carl Park's crew.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wymore are the proud parents of a baby boy, born October 21 in Chester hospital. Mrs. Wymore is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grosser and Elmer is maintenanceman at Winnett. Congratulations to the parents and



Harcharik, Borden, Johnson

grandparents, too.

Arnold Blair, Jr., had the misfortune of a bike accident last fall and is in a cast from his waist to below his knees. He is recovering slowly but satisfactorily. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Blair, maintenanceman at White Sulphur Springs.

Earl Rife, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rife, enlisted in the Air Force and will be leaving for his basic training in January 1972. John is an instrumentman in the Lewistown division.

Correction: Mrs. Jaek Barisich's name is Mary Lee instead of Pat, as reported in the last Centerline. Jaek is the new maintenanceman at Winnett.

Ruba Euell and his wife are supporting two orphan children from India. A boy, A Manoharon, age 9 and in the sixth grade and a girl, Lotha, age 6 and in the first grade. These children's father is dead and their mother is not able to feed or to clothe them. Ruba is maintenanceman supervisor at Jordan. You are certainly to be commended in this activity.



Blair, Bianchi, Johnson, Aicher



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Lewistown, con't.

The retirement party for Oscar Mauland who had 25 years of active duty with the state highway department was held at the Elk's country club on November 13, with around 60 friends attending. A delicious steak dinner was enjoyed by all with dancing afterwards. Oscar was presented with a new "four iron" to better his golfing during his retirement days. Congratulations from the whole "gang."

After a month-long bout with an attack of phlebitis, Bea Knerr, clerk 2, is back in the groove. I might add that it is mighty good to be back, too.

## Havre

Edna Hess

Three employees of the Havre division were honored in November for their combined thirty years of service. They were Richard W. Wiebe, five years; Loren E. Brandt, ten years, and Dale R. Hecock, fifteen years.

Nearly 80 employees enjoyed a dinner and a night of dancing after honoring three retirees recently. They were Harry O. Hallingstad, who served as maintenance supervisor at Sunburst; John Brinkman, who served as maintenance supervisor at Big Sandy, and X. W. Shortell, who was classed as maintenance supervisor and served as a mechanic in the Havre shop.

Resigned recently were John A. Arnold, resident engineer; and Greg English and Michael Davis, both to go to college.

Hired as permanent employees and working out of the Havre headquarters section are Frances Cartwright and Donald Conley. Gary Gillies was promoted to maintenanceman 3 and Everett Larson to working shop foreman.

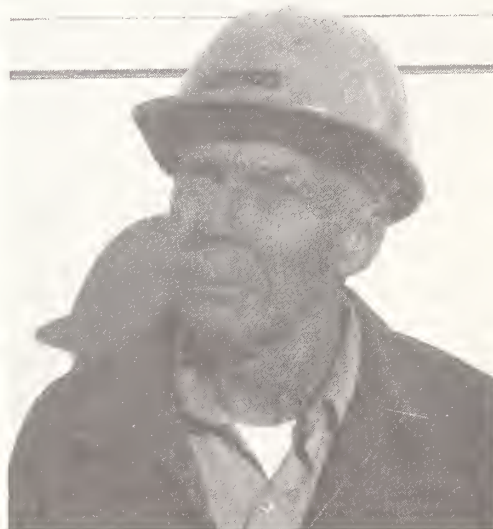
We are pleased to have Anton Peterson, foreman stationed at Havre, back with us after major surgery in September.

Vernon Smith, GVW scaleman, resigned recently and has purchased a farm near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

## Wolf Point

Ollie Hauge

Richard Newton, sectionman for the State Highway Department at Culbertson is retiring on January 7, 1972 after 28 years of service with the department. Dick first worked as a laborer in December of 1943 and through years of faithful service was promoted to sectionman on October 16, 1948. We hear that Dick and his wife, Edith plan on doing a bit of traveling, visiting their children and



Dick Newton

grandchildren enroute. They have four children: Gary lives in Idaho, Judy in Minnesota, Joan in Helena and Stanley who is following in his Dad's footsteps and works for the highway department at Conrad. Our best wishes to Dick and Edith in their retirement.

Orville Mathiason of the Plentywood section headquarters has been selected to take Richard Newton's place as sectionman at Culbertson. Orville has nearly completed 25 years of service with the department.

Robert I. Bakken was employed in September at Opheim headquarters under sectionman Robert Maas. Robert is married and makes his home in Opheim. Welcome to the highway family, Robert.

The annual Christmas party for the Wolf Point division was held at the Elks Club on December 18th.

The perfect computer: You feed in your problems and they never come out again.

## Helena—Hdq.

Bev Gibson

Dutch Flemming, construction engineer, is in hospital in Salt Lake City. We hope he feels better soon.

L. F. (Charlie) Horan, fiscal supervisor for the state motor pool, was injured in an automobile accident on October 23rd and is, at this writing, in St. Peter's Hospital, Helena. Two broken legs are healing well, but Charlie will probably be hospitalized for a few more weeks, and does not expect to return to work until some time in the new year.

Don DeVore, special assignments engineer, state motor pool, is presently on a month's vacation, with plans for a motor trip to Florida. In his absence, Hank Dahl, equipment reviewer and purchasing coordinator, is in administrative charge, with Clyde Mayer continuing in his usual capacity in operations.

Lynn Predmore, draftsman in preconstruction, and his wife were in charge of scenery design and execution for the recent production of "The Nutcracker" at the Helena Civic Center.

Fred Jawort, project control office, slipped on the ice and dislocated his collarbone.

Dorothy Bossee, former secretary to Jack Wheeler, commission secretary, has returned to work after a period of illness, at planning survey. We welcome her back to the fold.

## Retirement

Heading for the sun country of Arizona and Mexico is Sid A. Storez, who retired on November 9 after completing more than 21 years of service with the highway department. Beginning his employment September 1, 1950 as a lab assistant, Sid became a lab technician in 1953. In 1959 he was promoted to materials inspector and in 1960 became a materials supervisor.

Sid was in charge of the inspection of all wood products proposed for incorporation into highway construction projects. To accomplish this work, he traveled extensively not only throughout Montana but also in North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho.

We wish Sid and his wife, Evie



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

much happiness on their retirement and hope they return to Montana for some of our "summer sun."

Promotions and transfers include Alex Zbitnoff, from project control to Butte as district traffic engineer 2; Norm Guter, EIT in bridge, to Billings as district traffic engineer 1; John Maykuth, resident engineer 2 in Bozeman will be coming to Helena as assistant bridge engineer. The district traffic engineer positions are newly-created, and there are two others named to these positions, Ray Jacobson, EIT in Kalispell, going to Great Falls; and Don Williams, instrumentman in Glendive, who is remaining in Glendive in his new position.

We've had a couple of dead bodies floating around the headquarters building recently. One, a red fox carcass, was placed at the desk of Jan Magnus, project control, more or less at her request. She has been asking for a fox fur, and Jack Parcell of construction obliged with a whole fox. (He traps them on his ranch.) Then, the very next day, Ellen Dennis of mail and file was exhibiting the baked head of a pig complete with apple in its mouth. The pig was the piece d'resistance at an Elk River Concrete dinner the night before. Ellen's husband, Dave works for the firm.

The Helena headquarters Christmas party was held in the Civic Center ballroom on December 11 with 350 people in attendance. Planning and decorations were accomplished by the board of trustees of the Employees Benefit Association: Margaret Ward, Gene Hoffman, Gary McKnight, Ray Williams and Buck Harris.

A delicious baron of beef buffet style dinner was followed by dancing to music provided by the Kelly Campbell orchestra. From all comments received, it was the most successful Christmas party ever held in Helena headquarters.

We learn that a consultant is a man who borrows your watch and tells you what time it is.

"There's only one thing that bugs me about this revolution bit," sighed one radical to another. "And what's that?" "What happens to our unemployment checks when we overthrow the government?"

## Billings

James Young

Curtis McBride, maintenance foreman, Jim Roan and Ray Webb were commended for the assistance they gave Miss Susan Hagler, former Highway Hostess, who had a car accident near Columbus. Susan, a student teacher at Absarokee, lay in her car for nearly 18 hours, unnoticed by other drivers. Our maintenance



Roan, Webb, McBride

employees discovered the wreck during their regular duties, radioed for help, and assisted in removing her from the auto and into the ambulance. Their help undoubtedly saved her life, as the doctors said one or two more hours would have been too late. She is presently in St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings, recovering from extensive injuries. The three men received letters from Susan's parents and from Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer.



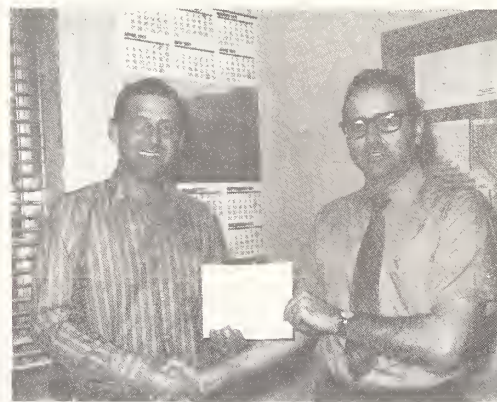
White, Klimper, Reichenberg

Walt Reichenberg and Dan White were presented 25 year service awards. Division Engineer C. W. Klimper presented Walt and Dan their awards in November.



Susan

District Right-of-Way Supervisor William Hauck presented Ed Waldhauser with a 10-year service award.



Waldhauser, Hauck

Welcome to Julian Federico, who was born in Forsyth, attended schools in Ballantine and Huntley. Julian said his hobbies are "money" and "food" in that order, and also enjoys basketball. Federico and his wife, Nancy live at 2240 Eaglerock Drive, Billings, and have a four-month-old son.

### To Host Tournament

President Harold Dunbar, Vice President Bill Mankin, Secretary John Neudiek and Treasurer George Haider announce preliminary plans are already formed for the bowling tourney, to be held April 29th at the Sunset Alleys. A cash door prize is rumored at this date. All divisions are requested to plan ahead and reserve the April date.

### Golf Tournament

A spokesman for last year's golf tournament committee requested golfers to keep in mind the 1972 tourney. The date will be announced later when the new committee has been named.



# Wild Windy Winter

When Montana experiences a tough winter, it usually sticks in the memories of many people — as this winter thus far certainly will do. The Weather Bureau in Helena, now slowly gathering statistics resulting from our wild and roiling early months of cold and snow and wind, said with some authority: "The air flow we have experienced has been unusual. On two occasions, winds in the Livingston area gusted to over 100 miles per hour. The wind also was more turbulent than usual

and more widespread, covering almost the entire state, not just isolated areas."

The Duke's mixture of snow, cold and strong gusty winds has played havoc with roads and road travel in the state — all of which has added up to a vast headache for our state maintenance forces.

Thus the following memorandum, written early in January by Don Gruel, P.E., administrator, maintenance division, is solidly on target and very much sincere:

"The winter, thus far, has been long and rough and, of course, we are probably in for more to come.

"I would like to take this opportunity to compliment each and every maintenance employee for his diligence, dedication and stamina during this winter's operations.

"The traveling public should be grateful for the way all employees have performed their duties.

"KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK"



**LABOR AND EEO PERSONNEL—** Some familiar and some new faces can be seen in this picture taken at the Helena Avenue offices of the labor and EEO departments. Seated, left to right, are Dick Michel, chief of apprenticeship standards; Karen Luckey, Peg Dolan, Vicky Peres, Sid

Smith, commissioner of labor; Tony Softich, assistant commissioner of labor; Ruby Foster, Pat Vonada, Fred Wolfe, field representative, department of labor and industry; Dick Kane, chief of wage and hour. Standing, left to right, are Frank Hays, labor compliance officer; Peter St.

Marks, EEO officer; Robert Kelley, field labor inspector; Jim Leary, EEO field inspector; U. J. Trahan, EEO field inspector; Raymond McCreanor, field representative, apprenticeship council; and Mike Stump, field representative for wage and hour.